

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 were pending in this application. Claim 6 is amended. New claims 7-10 are added. No new subject matter is believed to have been added by these amendments. Therefore, claims 1-10 remain in this application.

The Examiner has acknowledged that claims 2-4, and 6 are directed to allowable subject matter. New claim 7 incorporates the subject matter of claim 2 and base independent claim 1. New claims 8-10 incorporate the subject matter of claims 3, 4, and 6, respectively. Therefore, allowance of new claims 7-10 is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness. The Applicants believe that the above amendments to claim 6 overcome the Examiner's indefiniteness rejections. Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

Claims 1 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,692,409 to Fukumoto. Mr. Fukumoto is a common inventor to both the '409 patent and the present application. In view of the following remarks, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of these rejections.

The present invention is directed to a change-speed system that has, among other things, a gear change-speed device and a hydraulic clutch that selectively engage and disengage power to the gear change-speed device. About when the gear change-speed device finishes changing gear, the hydraulic clutch needs to be engaged to transmit power to the gear change-speed device. This process occurs in two stages as shown in Fig. 8 of the present application: first engaging sub-process for rapidly raising the oil pressure to the hydraulic clutch, which lasts for a predetermined period of time T, and second engaging sub-process where the oil pressure is raised gradually. The first engaging sub-process is generally provided to quickly move the hydraulic clutch up to the point where the clutch is about to

engage. Then, the clutch actually engages during the more gradual second engaging sub-process.

The present invention provides for a manual setting device for adjusting the electric current for the second engaging sub-process. The advantage of this invention is described in detail in the specification.

In contrast, the '409 patent discloses automatically adjusting the duration of the first engaging sub-process T (or t in Fig. 4 of the '409 patent) depending on a parameter such as the shifting time of an actuator, oil temperature, etc.

The Examiner points to Column 16, lines 8+ in the '409 patent. However, there is nothing in that section that teaches or suggests the manual setting device as defined in claim 1 of the present application. The expression "gentle characteristic curve" refers to a more gradual characteristic of the process after the time t in Fig. 4 and not a human intervention.

In fact, lines 10-12 of Column 16 states that "the controller 81 has a function to control the valve unit V to operate the hydraulic clutch 9 with predetermined pressuring characteristics", suggesting a predetermined automatic process.

The '409 patent does not teach or suggest a manual setting device for adjusting the value of the electric current to the valve mechanism. For the foregoing reasons, the Applicants believe that the subject matter of independent claim 1 is not anticipated by the '409 patent. Claim 5 depends from independent claim 1. Reconsideration of the rejections of claims 1 and 5 is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of pending claims 1-10 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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